

GALLATIN LOCAL WATER QUALITY DISTRICT MINUTES

January 5, 2006

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Bill Hunt	Rich Mikelson
Kathy Gallagher	Ell Bennett
Sherwin Leep	Ron Thein
Tim Ford	

GLWQD EMPLOYEES/STAFF

Alan English, Manager
Tammy Crone, Water Quality Specialist
Tawnya Storm, Administrative Assistant

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT/EXCUSED

Joe Skinner – Excused

PUBLIC AND GUESTS

Jerry Kalur
Tim Roark, Gallatin Co. Environmental Health

Sherwin Leep called the meeting to order at 8:20 AM.

I. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 3, 2005 MINUTES

Rich made a motion to approve the Nov. 3, 2005 minutes as drafted. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

ROLL CALL

Sherwin Leep – For	
Bill Hunt – For	
Joe Skinner – Excused	Kathy Gallagher - For
Tim Ford – For	Ell Bennett - For
Rich Mikelson – For	Ron Thein - For

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jerry Kalur attended the meeting and described himself as being very interested in water quality issues. He would like to sit in on GLWQD monthly board meetings when possible.

Tim Roark was asked to attend the GLWQD meeting by the Board of Health. He informed the board that Gallatin Gateway is having some issues with wells and septic systems on small lots. The standard 100-foot separation between wells and septic systems often can't be achieved. The BOH is interested in working with the GLWQD to help evaluate the problem.

Ell asked Tim some questions about what the DEQ enforced and who actually has the authority to shut something down if there were to be an infraction. Tim did his best to explain who could do what, but also added that subdivision review is a very broad topic and gets extremely involved and complicated.

Alan offered to meet with Tim Roark and develop a workplan that would be incorporated into the work the District is completing in the Four Corners area. He indicated that efforts in Gateway should be focused on collecting basic water quality data to evaluate potential health risks from having well and septic systems in close proximity to each other. Tim Ford offered the use of his lab to do the initial screening of water samples. It was decided that Alan will talk with Tim Ford and Tim Roark about these ideas and come up with a plan at the next meeting.

III. STAFF UPDATE

Alan reviewed staff update and summarized the District's activities for the previous 2 months.

It was noted that the Microbial Source Tracking in Montana Surface and Ground Waters project submitted by Dr. Pyle was not funded. Tim Ford added that they will be redoing and resubmitting the proposal.

The topic of subdivision review was talked about and the kind of policy we'd like to adopt regarding subdivision review. Alan suggested that our board could pass some kind of a resolution in favor of community water and sewer systems.

Kathy requested staff obtain copies of any policies of the Board of Health related to subdivision, and community water and sewer systems.

It was decided that subdivision review and all that goes into it is a large topic and would best be addressed at a retreat. Tawnya will be emailing board members about topics and possible dates for the retreat.

IV. CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF DISTRICT FEE & BOUNDARY CHANGES

Alan handed out a worksheet summarizing the fee structures of the other three Local Water Quality Districts. Based on this information and the input he received from Joe Meek from the DEQ, he proposes not changing the GLWQD fee structure, but requested that the Board consider approving a 10% fee increase. Alan handed out a draft resolution for the County Commission for the fee increase, which would increase the fee from \$6.00 to \$6.60 per fee assessed unit. Tim Ford stated that he believes the district has more than enough justification and would like to move forward.

Ell made a motion to move forward with a 10% fee increase in 2007. Ron seconded the motion. The motion was passed as follows:

ROLL CALL

Sherwin Leep – For
Ell Bennett – For
Kathy Gallagher – For
Bill Hunt – For
Rich Mikelson - For

Joe Skinner - Excused
Tim Ford - For
Ron Thein - For

Alan informed the board that not enough research had been done to give a definitive answer on the boundary change issue. Katie Alvin from the Blue Water Task Force in Big Sky is working on finding out just how many fee assessed units are in Big Sky and how much money they generate. Alan did write a letter to Joe Meek with legal questions regarding expansion into the Big Sky area. He summarized the responses from DEQ legal staff. According to them, if the GLWQD was to expand to be a joint county district, the existing district would have to be dissolved and an entirely new joint district would have to be proposed. Alan also mentioned that another option would be to expand the GLWQD to the Gallatin County line, have Madison County create a LWQD on the Madison County side, and work out a joint operation agreement between the two counties.

V. UPDATE ON WELL MONITORING NETWORK PROJECT

Alan informed the board that a lot of progress had been made in the last couple of months on getting the well sites located. He is still working on getting the last few located and approved. Alan stated that it looks as though Haggerty Drilling will begin drilling mid-January. He added that the project has to be completed by the end of March 2006, which shouldn't be a problem.

Ell informed Alan he'd be happy to help in the process of selecting 2 wells in Manhattan if need be.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

Rich asked to be excused from the February meeting.

The GLWQD will be planning a retreat for the near future. Tawnya will email board members and ask for topic ideas and possible dates for the retreat. Sherwin asked Tawnya to go over the last 2 years worth of minutes to find any topics worth talking about at the retreat.

VII. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

Retreat Discussion
HHW Event Discussion
Fee Increase
District Boundaries
Update on Well Monitoring Project

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherwin Leep, Chair

Date

Joe Skinner, Secretary

Date

Alan English, District Manager

Date